

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT High Cost of CHIANG Chih-chung's
"Cultural Program" in Sinkiang

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1. Expenses for the "cultural program" conducted by CHANG Chih-chung in Sinkiang continued in October 1948 to take the major share of the provincial budget. In order to meet the deficit and to keep the "cultural program" in operation, the authorities decided on the following measures, which were to become effective 10 November 1948:
 - a. A 25 percent cut in the living allowance for provincial and hsien employees, and a considerable reduction in their rice ration.
 - b. Limitation of expenditures for reconstruction projects to the amount budgeted.
 - * c. Abolition of unnecessary functions of the government and dismissal of employees.

It was estimated that one million gold yuan would be saved by these measures. The monthly expenses would then remain at approximately three million gold yuan. As of October 1948 Sinkiang's allowance from Central Government funds was five times that received by most other provinces.

2. The following organizations are among those concerned in the "cultural program."
- a. The Sinkiang Daily (Hsin Chiang Jih Pao, published in both Chinese and Uighur languages) publishes pro-Soviet and pro-CHANG propaganda, under the auspices of the Sinkiang Provincial Publicity Committee.
 - b. The Northwest Cultural Reconstruction Association, established by the Northwest High Military and Political Officials' Association, sponsors all kinds of social functions, concerts and exhibitions.

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- c. The Political Affairs Department of the Officials' Association sponsors plays, musical programs and exhibitions for the purpose of "comforting troops" and bettering relations between the officials and the people. The theaters and moving picture houses in Tihua and Lanchou are controlled by the Political Affairs Department. This department also sponsors the exchange of dramatic and cultural groups between Tihua and the coastal cities, at ~~great~~ expense.
3. In connection with the "cultural program" two large centers have been erected in Tihua and a third was under construction in October 1948. The most imposing of these, the T'ien Shan House, is the largest building in the Northwest. The ground floor consists of a large dance hall, dining rooms and parlors; on the second floor is an auditorium with seating capacity for a thousand persons; the top floor serves as a guest house for prominent visitors. The Tihua Moving Picture Theater was newly finished in October 1948. The Cultural Auditorium, a smaller building under construction, was to house a moving picture theater, dance hall, club rooms, a library and a restaurant.

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